



## **Multimodal Transportation Commission Minutes**

**Regular Meeting  
June 22, 2016**

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### **Attending:**

Commission Members: Terri March, Vice-Chair; Philip Lenowitz, Till Dohse, Jim Grode, Kim Roney, Rich Lee, and John Ridout.

Commission Members Absent: Bruce Emory, Chair, Till Dohse, Mary Weber, Don Kostelec

Council Liaison: Gwen Wisler

Staff Members: Mariate Echeverry, Kelly Whitlock, Elias Mathes, Cathy Ball, Vaidila Satvika, Monica Prysock, Amy Patterson

Community Members: Sabrah nha Raven, Ken Dierks, Billie Lofland, Amy Cantrell, Tom Tomlin, John Spears, Scott Owen, David Webb

**Called Meeting To Order:** Terri March opened the meeting and welcomed members.

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

**June 22, 2016 – Agenda:** Commission members Rich Lee motioned to approve, and John Ridout second-all approved.

**May 25, 2016 – Regular Meeting Minutes:** Commission members Rich Lee motioned to approve and John Ridout second-all in favor.

**Public Comment I:** None

### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Management Company RFP: Cathy Ball updated the commission and they were informed this is going to council on June 28<sup>th</sup>; there were questions by the commissioners and discussion about process and next steps.
2. Budget Update-Mariate Echeverry- Approved by council with a large increment in the transit fund.
3. Adopted of ART Drug and Alcohol Program – Mariate Echeverry- Staff is asking to Adopt this program. John Ridout motions Jim Grode seconds-all are in favor.
4. Open Streets – Terri March- On Sunday, September 18th from 1-4 in the Wall/Haywood/Church street Patton Ave-Close a section of roadway and invite people to walk, exercise, and create community; the intent/help perception of open space. What streets would be like –mile and a half of roadway. In some areas roads are closed once a month or once a week. Street Strategies-to give people a sense of what it looks like. Website is Openstreetsasheville.org. Final approval has been given. There will be local vendors along the routes; so businesses can understand the value of engaging the people. Social connectivity type of event.
5. Bond Referendum-Cathy Ball- Moving fairly quickly, looking to put together a packet of items for Council as they have to decide if this is going to be in the November ballot. Work session on Tuesday, June 28th at 10am.  
Gwen Wisler-The deadline to get this on the November ballot is on August 9th. A scientific poll from the public is going to be generated. City is tapped out of funds and are unable to borrow. Looking at a bond period of about seven years; projects should be completed within the seven years.

### **New Business:**

1. Recommendations to Council– Recommendations MMTC-TM states to put this on next agenda regarding how recommendations will be received from committees, taskforce and MMTC- to fill Don K and Jim G vacancy as well as Greenway. Billie is recommended. Six vacancies opened-Four would like to continue. Positions where they would like to continue was voted on. Jim Grode makes a motion of all who want to continue to do so, Kim Roney seconds-all in favor. Bike/Ped Task Force recommends Billie Lofland for Bicycle and Pedestrian interest. Jim Grode-none of the other candidates jumped out at him and recommends going with recommendation of Bike Task Force. Kim Roney makes a motion however, John Ridout brings up issues regarding Geographic distribution and consideration being given to other members. Kim Roney motions to endorse Billie Lofland, Rich Lee seconds all in favor. For the Greenway interest seats two candidates are recommended Meredith Gregory and David Nutter. Commission members are unsure if Meredith Gregory remains interested. Motion by John Ridout to recommend Meredith Gregory and David Nutter to MMTC Kim Roney seconds- all in favor.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

1. MMTC endorsement of RFP
2. Streamlining process for MMTC membership

**Announcements:** None

**General Committee Updates:**

1. Transit Committee – In first public comment, Christie from Helpmate who is Chair of the eNOugh campaign requested display of posters for their campaign August-October. The campaign includes info about the Family Justice Center as well as a crisis hotline number, and has versions in Spanish and English. Staff directed her to submit for quotes. We heard the presentation from the Reynolds students requesting bus service, followed by questions regarding cost, suggestions for stops, and a need for ancillary partnerships to offset expenses. We were presented with the Management Company RFP, from which the evaluation committee and MMTC have endorsed First Transit. With a request from staff, no member of TC motioned to endorse. Questions were raised including: process for data collection and evaluation; non-revenue vehicles; maintenance concerns; and patterns of service lapse. A motion was made to endorse McDonald Transit, which passed 6-0 with 3 abstentions.
2. Greenway Committee – Still looking at Greenway candidates to fill empty seats.
3. Bike/Ped Task Force Committee– Received a report from Land of Sky (LoS) upcoming funding. There is a concern regarding potential challenges about moving forward regarding pedestrian safety support and activities in the city; there will be a follow up by Bike/Ped Task Force members and with city staff to reconcile issues. We received a great deal of support to continue moving forward with the NC Watch For Me Campaign as well as an active engagement in procuring Bike/Ped Safety Operations.
4. Planning and Zoning Committee – None
5. Neighborhood Advisory Committee – The NAC held its North Asheville Regional meeting on May 23. Rich Lee from MMTC attended among about 45 others. City staff was well represented and high on people's agenda was the Cornerstone project which would build 184 condos on Woodfin property but would have no access without going through Asheville City streets. The Citizens for Responsible Land Use will be holding a rally at Beaver Lake on Saturday, June 25 at 2:30 to provide information on the project and how it is damaging to Asheville.
6. Sustainable Advisory Committee on Energy and Environment (SACEE) -None

**Other:** Terri March presented Jim Grode with a plaque for his years of service. Don Kostelec was not present to receive his. This is the last meeting for both members.

**Public Comment II:** Amy Cantrell- Peoples Campaign Organizer-Campaign-“Better Buses Together”, wants a management company that operates well with all involved. She brought up several issues including personnel issues, several complaints regarding buses running efficiently, safety issues.

**Meeting Adjourned: 5:01 pm**